

Young People's Societies

WORLD WIDE ENDEAVOR.

Topic for Sunday, February 7—Our Christian Endeavor the World Over. Psalm 97: 1-9.

DAILY READINGS:

Monday, February 1: A universal God. Romans 3: 27-31.
 Tuesday, February 2: Universal worship. Psalm 66: 1-20.
 Wednesday, February 3: A universal kingdom. Matthew 12: 31-33.
 Thursday, February 4: Universal fellowship. 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9.
 Friday, February 5: Universal service. Mark 16: 14-20.
 Saturday, February 6: Universal brotherhood. Matthew 12: 46-50.

So much wrong use has been made of the expression "the Brotherhood of Man," in connection with an improper use of the twin expression "the Fatherhood of God," that a certain measure of prejudice has arisen against it.

There is a right sense in which both the expressions can be used, and because they have been misunderstood and misapplied, even though it has been general, they should not be rejected as altogether wrong or misleading.

There is a unity of heart which underlies all true Christian service. Every act of loyalty to Christ and every moving of the affections towards Christ's people because they are Christ's is right in the sight of God and helps to develop the Christian character.

The Christian worker who tries to live and to be active without sympathy and a consciousness of possessing others' sympathy may do a little for Christ, but how much he misses of the joy of the work which comes from companionship! He cannot afford to be without it.

But sympathy in work is not all of united, fraternalized effort. There's a mighty power for good in union which is born of unity. There goes from it an indefinable yet powerful something that thrills and moves the world. It is singular how the world always likes to look at a procession!

Add to this the effectiveness which union born of unity gives. Besides the economical division of work, there comes the benefit of combined and simultaneous effort, the knowledge that others' experience imparts, and ability and ease in avoiding the errors and failures which experience shows.

The enlargement of Christian vision is by no means a small element to be considered. Broad views, not in the sense of loose ideas or low ideals, but in the sense of large expectation and large faith and large service, bring within the range of sight great responsibilities, great possibilities, great promises, and great realities.

World wide effort and unity derives all its significance from the fact that Jesus is to be proclaimed everywhere as the Savior of men and that his offer is to be made to all men. "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." "Let him that heareth say, Come." The Gospel is "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

If ever the various churches get together it will be through like-mindedness that expresses itself in united work to witness for Christ, to give his word in its purity and power to all men, to yield a ready obedience to his command and the order of his kingdom, to declare the whole counsel of God. This unity of soul, of thought, and of work is well worth working for. It is that for which the Savior prayed when he asked his Father that all his people might be one.

Prayer Meeting

HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Week Beginning January 31.

In the published program for the Monthly Concert of Prayer, the topic that is announced for the department of Home Missions for our January study and petition is "The Immigrants." This is becoming an increasingly important and urgent department of Christian study and work. There are lofty considerations summoning us to interest and effort in behalf of our immigrant population. The chief of these is the fact that these foreign-born people who seek liberty, or fortune, or reputable citizenship on our shores are comprehended in the provision of Christ's redemptive work. In a deep, solemn and tremendous sense his blood was shed for them. The work was complete. Pardon and life are freely provided and offered through the cross. Whosoever will may come. The souls of these people are as precious as our own souls. They are immortal and capable of being endowed with endless happiness. The fact that Christ's sacrifice is sufficient for them, is offered freely to them, and that it is the expression of his love for them, appeals powerfully to our sense of responsibility. Shall we do the part that remains to be done, under the blessing of God's grace, in bringing these people into the kingdom? We must tell them that the kingdom of heaven is at hand. We must tell them that if they believe on Christ they will be saved. We must pray them to be reconciled to God. We must entreat them to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. We must encourage them to "live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world, looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ."

Another consideration prompting us to vigilance and effort in behalf of our foreign-born neighbors is that of self-preservation; the perpetuation of our institutions as a self-governing people; the purity and integrity of social and domestic life; the maintenance of high moral standards of principle and conduct, and the perpetuation of all that is worth preserving in our distinctively national life.

Again, immigration presents an inviting field of opportunity for the Church. The strength of our membership now consists, in a large measure, of immigrants from foreign lands, or their immediate descendants. Grace can make the sons of Southern Europe as pure and strong as it made representatives of their race in the periods of reformation. The heroic Waldensian of Northern Italy is of the same stock as the Romanist of the lowlands. Grace has made the difference, and grace can make splendid men and women of Italian immigrants. So of all who come to our land from afar. The Gospel that we cherish and the Savior that we glorify are the supreme need of the immigrant, whatever be his nationality.

In foreign missions this month our topic is, "The Field is the World." The great commission is, "Go ye into all the world." We grasp more readily perhaps than our fathers did the conception of the world as a unit. The meaning of "the human family" is more comprehensible, for nations and races are becoming intermingled and inter-dependent in their commercial and national interests. We are realizing that every human being is our neighbor to whom our responsibility extends, and whom we are commanded to love. It is an inspiring thought that the Church seems to be girding itself to meet that responsibility.

One thought is urgent for recognition here. How shall we meet so tremendous a responsibility? How can we succeed?